

# RIVERWAYS

## Newsletter

## Summer 1999

A Publication of the Riverways Program

Department of Fisheries, Wildlife & Environmental Law Enforcement, David M. Peters, *Commissioner*

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Bob Durand, *Secretary* • Argeo Paul Cellucci, *Governor*

### Leadership Grows for River Protection

Riverways is pleased to welcome former Senator Bob Durand as the new Secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA). As a Representative in the State House, Bob Durand was instrumental in starting the Riverways Program in 1986.

Bob Durand was an early advocate for the watershed approach in his home watershed, the Assabet. He worked closely with DFWELE Commissioner Walter Bickford to give Riverways the tools to do the work, first in the Assabet, with Michele Monjeau, then in the Blackstone, with Russ Cohen hired to take coordinating roles.

Riverways continued to support watershed protection statewide; however, it wasn't until 1997 and with the implementation of the Watershed Initiative by EOEA that most of the twenty-seven watersheds each had a state sponsored Coordinator. We know from experience that Secretary Durand understands and believes in the watershed approach to river protection and restoration.

Secretary Durand has appointed two Assistant Secretaries for Environmental Affairs. Sharon McGregor has assumed the post of Assistant Secretary of Biological Conservation and Ecosystem Protection. Her role is to assist the Secretary in making biological conservation and ecosystem integrity central tenets in EOEA's positions and policies.

Gina McCarthy is Assistant Secretary for Pollution Prevention, Environmental Business and Technology. She is responsible for advising the Secretary on EOEA regulations, policies, grant determinations, and services that will maximize opportunities to conserve resources and prevent the generation of pollution as the first step toward a sustainable economic base for Massachusetts.

Our new Commissioner at the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife & Environmental Law Enforcement David Peters has lost no time in getting up to speed on the important issues. His Five Year Plan is developed around five priority areas. Support for the

Riverways Programs is right at the top of the list along with:

- protection of habitat and wildlands
- developing many more canoe access sites for rivers and lakes and increasing the number of coastal boat ramps through the Public Access Board
- expanding outreach and education through the Adopt-A-Stream Program, Division of Marine Fisheries, Mass Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement activating the new SPORT licensing program.

In late April Commissioner Peters took a day tour in the Connecticut River valley with Riverways staff Russ Cohen. They met grass roots organizers, municipal workers, land trust members and scientists to hear about the work being done on behalf of rivers and streams and to announce the awarding of four of the eighteen 1999 Riverways Small Grants to Connecticut Valley organizations.

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*Members and friends of the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust paying a visit to Roaring Brook in Leverett to celebrate the receipt of a Riverways Small Grant of \$5,000 that went toward the purchase of a critical open space/trail link along the brook. Photo by Russell Cohen.*



### Funding Local River and Watershed Work

#### Riverways Small Grants

The Riverways Small Grants Program awarded a total of \$50,000 to 18 recipients this spring. These funds are helping watershed groups, environmental organizations, and municipalities in their efforts to improve fisheries habitat, volunteer education and coordination, riparian land protection, and water supply protection. We received twenty-eight requests for over one hundred thousand dollars.

We are always impressed with how local groups use a Riverways Small Grant to accomplish valuable conservation results and often leverage additional funds and services to achieve much more than our funding can support alone. This year was no exception with a variety of projects that help identify and protect important riverfront lands, identify pollution sources to rivers, provide riverwalk trails and waterway guides, and educate the public about the ecology and importance of river systems.

Roaring Brook Wildlife Corridor was purchased by **Rattlesnake Gutter Trust**, adding 51 acres to the Conservation Area.

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### *Small Grants, continued from page 1*

The **Barnstable Land Trust** created a travelling land model of septic tank for youngsters to learn about septic tanks and their role in riverine and estuarine water quality.

**Greater Springfield Area Riverwatch** expanded their Mill River Watch Program through increased public awareness and support of clean water.

The **Essex County Sportsmens Association** repaired the Byfield fishway on the Parker River to improve the alewife run.

**Hodges Village Environmental Education Association** used their funds to hire an intern to poll public concerns surrounding the Quinebaug River watershed and recruit new members to the association.

**Ipswich River Watershed Association** was able to help each of their six Stream Teams implement action plans.

OAR, the **Organization for the Assabet River**, pooled Riverways and other funds to hire a half-time water quality director to improve monitoring and support for that program.

**Parker River Clean Water Association** organized and hosted "buffer garden" workshops for riverfront homeowners.

**Salem Sound 2000** prepared and distributed an informational pamphlet for the community about clean beaches and streams from their natural resources surveys.

The **Taunton River Watershed Alliance** printed a watershed map and resource guide as part of their Canoe Trip Project.

**UMass Extension's** Mill River Watch Program was able to expand and make research and planning resources available for implementing more effective watershed protection measures.

**Westport River Watershed Alliance** developed a social-scientific prototype for watershed management that involves citizens and students as stewards of their backyards in the Bread & Cheese Brook watershed.

By analyzing the level of protection provided for riverfront lands in five communities along the upper Taunton River through regulations and zoning, **Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts** recommended modifications to enhance river protection.

Riverways grants to municipalities also contributed to larger river protection efforts.

The **Town of Acton's Conservation Commission** has linked waterway industrial history to the present environment through their Nashoba Brook Education Kiosk Panel

Project. The **Town of Amesbury** has aimed to protect the town water resources through creation of a Water Resource Protection District.

**Billerica's Conservation Commission's** Education Outreach and Open Space Preservation Program will increase public awareness and volunteer support.

The **City of Northampton** identified potential pollution sources to their reservoir and developed a public education program for responsible land management among residents.

**Rockport Conservation Commission and Department of Public Works** have restored natural the setting to a 5,000 square foot area adjacent to a vernal pool near Mill Brook.

### **EOEA Grants Support Grassroots Groups and Communities**

The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) awarded Capacity Building Grants in the fall of 1998 to the **Deerfield River Watershed Association** (\$26,000), the **Blackstone River Watershed Association** (\$12,500), the **Merrimack River Watershed Council** (\$37,500), the **North & South Rivers Watershed Association** (\$25,000), the **Millers River Watershed Association** (\$50,000) the **Sudbury/Assabet/Concord Coalition and Sudbury Valley Trustees** (\$50,000) and the **Massachusetts Watershed Coalition** (\$49,700). These grants are each matched dollar for dollar by the receiving organization.

**NOTE:** For more information on funding distributed to local groups and communities for river protection, see the "Urban Rivers Update" and "Monies and Momentum Build for Volunteer Monitoring" articles in this issue.

### *Leadership, continued from page 1*

The Commissioner is eager to visit groups across the state and learn about the concerns of constituents and translate those concerns into programs that make a difference. He is looking for ways to enhance the Salmon Restoration Program, address the expanding beaver population and ensure the safety of right whales.

In the year ahead, Riverways staff will be working closely with EOEA and Commissioner Peters in implementing the Watershed Initiative to protect and restore living resources.

Secretary Durand and Commissioner Peters have launched the River Restore Program within Riverways to restore the connectivity of our rivers and streams and improve fish passage and movement through

the evaluation and removal of obstacles, particularly dams.

We will strengthen our work in communities through intensive Shoreline Survey training and Stream Team development. We will foster more alliances among Stream Teams and Conservation Commissions and Departments of Public Works as a good way to be sure action plans from the Shoreline Surveys are implemented.

Through the Fishway Stewardship Program and interns we will continue to assist stream biologists and volunteers in evaluating the condition of fishways to decide where repairs and ongoing maintenance are needed.

Our Urban Rivers Program is growing and reaching more urban community based organizations through the Urban Fellows, the Urban Grants and the Boston Urban Resources Program Partnership.

Riverways staff are also actively reviewing projects and policies that may impact rivers, facilitating watershed team outreach and problem solving, and providing guidance for reducing stormwater runoff, volunteer water quality monitoring and stream restoration.



### **New "Cartop" Access Points Sought**

The state's **Public Access Board (PAB)** is interested in adding additional "cartop" sites to its statewide inventory of access points to Massachusetts waterways. "Cartop" sites are suitable for canoes, kayaks and other watercraft that don't require boat ramps and can be carried by hand a short distance from the parking lot to the water.

Potential PAB cartop sites must: already be under town or other public ownership; have adequate space for on-site, off-road parking; have a town Department of Public Works or other public agency willing to provide general upkeep; and allow for safe "take-outs" and "put-ins".

Persons familiar with sites meeting these criteria are encouraged to contact PAB Director Jack Sheppard at (617) 727-1843 or <jack.sheppard@state.ma.us>. River systems that are relatively underserved by PAB sites include the Westfield, Blackstone, Sudbury, Concord, Taunton and the lower Housatonic, although the PAB is open to suggestions for other rivers as well as lakes and other waterways.

## Legislative Action for Rivers and Watersheds

### Community Preservation Act:

This is the current version of statewide "land bank" legislation that has been under consideration at the State House for more than a decade. The CPA would bestow upon cities and towns a powerful tool to help fight sprawl and shape their destinies by enabling them to enact a real estate transfer tax and/or a property tax surcharge to fund open space protection, affordable housing and historic preservation. Similar programs on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket are responsible for saving hundreds of acres of open space from development. Land banks have recently been established for the 15 towns on Cape Cod as well as the town of Marion on Buzzards Bay.

The CPA is currently numbered S.1513 and H.3203 and is co-sponsored by Sen. Pacheco (D-Taunton) and Rep. Petersen (D-Marblehead), who also co-chair the Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture. A hearing on the CPA by the Joint Committee on Taxation took place before a standing-room-only crowd at the State House on April 14th. The CPA is expected to emerge (with amendments) from the Taxation Committee around June 23rd; its next anticipated stop is the House Committee on Ways and Means or the House floor. Contact the Community Preservation Coalition at (617) 725-0597 for up-to-date information and advice on how best to make your voice heard on this important legislation.

### Phosphorus:

Senate 990 would amend Chapter 111, section 5R by deleting "dishwashing machines" as one of the cleaning agents exempted in the original bill. While lake associations were the primary advocates in passing the original legislation, river advocates should also follow the amendment and continued implementation as wastewater treatment plants face limits on the discharge of phosphorus into rivers and streams. Sponsors - Senator Fargo (D-Lincoln), Senator Kay Khan, and Senator Pam Resor.

### Exotic Invasives:

This is an Act to Create an Exotic Aquatic Species Control Program. Invasive plants are the bane of many watersheds and this act hopes to work on control and eradication of these unwanted exotics plus preventing their spread to unaffected areas. Sponsor- Senator Fargo (D-Lincoln).

### Beaches Bill:

An Act to Create a Minimum Standard for Public Bathing Beaches. This is a call for frequent testing and monitoring of bathing

areas. The testing will determine if the public beaches meet newly established standards and requires closing these beaches which fail. A state fund will be created to help communities fund the costs of monitoring. Sponsor: Representative Petersen (D-Marblehead)

### Encouraging Land Conservation:

An Act Relating to Tax Credits for Conservation. Similar legislation has proven successful in motivating land owners to conserve land. The bill would allow a tax credit of 50 % of the value of land donated for conservation or conservation restriction (up to \$50,000). Sponsors: Senator Tarr (R-Gloucester), Representatives Straus (D-Mattapoisett), Turkington (D-Falmouth).

### Environmental Penalties:

An Act to Strengthen Environmental Enforcement. This bill would provide DEP with a bit more leverage in assigning penalties to environmental law violators by eliminating the requirement for written notification. If passed this bill would allow DEP to eliminate the current requirement to provide a "Notice of Noncompliance" warning before issuing penalties. Sponsors: Senator Fargo, (D-Lincoln), Representative Petersen, (D-Marblehead).

### Federal Legislation Benefitting Rivers and Watersheds

#### Riparian Buffers

Programs in the **1996 Farm Bill** make the conversion of crop or pasture land to naturally vegetated riparian buffers eligible for funding under the Conservation Reserve Program. Contact the USDA Service Center at (413) 253-4379 for more information.

The 1996 amendments to the federal **Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)** make it easier for communities to purchase land or conservation restrictions for the purpose of protecting public drinking water supplies (e.g. riparian land alongside a tributary to a public water supply reservoir or within the zone of contribution to a public water supply well). Each state (including Massachusetts) has the option of designating up to 10% of its SDWA revolving loan fund allocation specifically for the acquisition of land or conservation restrictions. Land trusts, watershed associations and other groups can assist communities in identifying and prioritizing potential acquisitions and even pre-acquiring properties. For more information, see the Resources and Grants section in this issue, or contact Kathy Romero at the DEP Division of Water Supply at (617) 292-5727.

The **Taxpayer Relief Act** signed by President Clinton in 1998 contains a provision, s.2031(c), that should help to encourage

riparian and other land conservation. The Act allows up to 40% of the value of land subject to a conservation easement to be exempted from estate taxes if the land is within 25 miles of a metropolitan area, national park or wilderness area, or within ten miles of an urban national forest (this includes most if not all of Massachusetts). The Act also allows heirs to place conservation easements on inherited land after the landowner's death to qualify for the exemption and avoid higher estate taxes. Another provision of the Act of interest to volunteers raised the tax deduction for charitable use of a car from 12 to 14 cents per mile.

### Watershed Protection / Public Access

In January, the Clinton Administration proposed a record \$1.03 billion in land conservation spending for the federal fiscal year 2000 budget (beginning on Oct. 1, 1999), with \$900 million coming from the **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**. Of the total, Clinton wants \$413 million for acquisitions by the four federal land management agencies (Forest Service, National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management), a 26% hike over current funding, and \$487 million of LWCF money for other land and water programs within the Agriculture and Commerce Departments that usually are funded by other means. These provisions fund conservation of forests and urban forests, endangered species, farmlands and coastal habitats

Of the \$413 million, most is already earmarked for specific federal acquisitions, but there is a proposal to create a new \$50 million matching grant program to help states develop open space preservation and "smart growth" strategies. The administration wants to retool the stateside LWCF program by awarding \$150 million in land conservation grants to states on a competitive basis with money going to projects consistent with "smart growth" plans. Clinton asked for \$10 million to create a revolving loan fund that nonprofits, state and local governments could use to acquire land and easements in rural areas.

Clinton's announcement came one day after Vice President Gore proposed \$700 million in tax credits to help states and localities pay for bonds (called "Better America Bonds") of \$9.5 billion to fund green space and park acquisition and water quality and brownfield cleanup projects.

Call your Senators and Representatives toll-free to encourage them to continue their support for full funding of the LWCF: (888) 723-5246. If you write, the House ZIP Code is 20515; the Senate's is 20510.

*Continues, page 7*

## The Wild & Scenic Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers

Following four years of study and five years of Congressional consideration, twenty-nine free-flowing miles of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers were added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Representative Marty Meehan led an official celebration on June 7 in Concord at the Old North Bridge, site of the American Revolution's "shot heard round the world." He was joined by longtime supporters Senators Ted Kennedy and John Kerry.

These rivers are well known for their outstanding wildlife habitat, history, scenery, recreation values, and place in American literature. The National Park Service will support a River Stewardship Council that will "hit the ground running" to implement the river management plan prepared as part of the study and endorsed by the eight towns when designation was unanimously requested in 1994.

Eight towns will be represented on the Council and they will be joined by members from state agencies, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and two watershed organizations.

Riverways staff Joan Kimball looks forward to serving as one of the state members, continuing a long tradition of involvement by Riverways in protecting these rivers. Michele Monjeau, as Assabet River Coordinator from 1987 to 1990, did the groundwork with towns leading to the study request. Joan Kimball represented the Governor on the Study Committee and served as chair of the Land Conservation Subcommittee. Karen Peltó provided technical assistance on the Water Resources Subcommittee.

Julia Blatt's work spans inception of the study as an aide to then-representative Chet Atkins, includes two years at Riverways, thanks to National Park Service funding, performing outreach and technical assistance to towns leading to the votes recommending designation. Julia is presently the Executive Director of the Organization for the Assabet River.

According to Cassie Thomas of the National Park Service, major conservation challenges along the rivers include the threats to instream flow and water quality posed by a booming real estate market. However, there is also increased funding and action to determine nutrient loading and identify innovative nonpoint source and wastewater treatment technologies.

The Stewardship Council's coordination efforts will be enhanced by the activities of the state-initiated SuAsCo Watershed Team, led by Mike Fleming, which serves as a clearinghouse for information and regulatory decision making by all levels of government and river advocates.

### Early Actions Made Westfield River Wild and Scenic Status Possible

In Part One of Riverways' Special Retrospective Newsletter we mentioned the Wild & Scenic River designation of reaches of the Westfield River.

In 1993, the Westfield River became Massachusetts' first National Wild and Scenic River. This designation came after long years of work by Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Westfield River Watershed Association, the Westfield River Advisory Committee, and others who cared.

Susan Gillan reminds us that these "first battles" were fought "without the wide support that all of us in resource protection enjoy today." There is an even longer history of citizen efforts to protect the Westfield River than most of us remember, "a classic grass-roots river protection effort" to "keep the Westfield River free of dams, long before the dream of Wild and Scenic status was born."

An interview with Robie Hubley, currently the Massachusetts Audubon's legislative liaison, brought us greater understanding of a pivotal citizen effort during the 1970s that made today's Wild and Scenic status possible.

One of the key eligibility requirements for Wild and Scenic status is the river must be "free-flowing in a natural condition." The upper reaches of the Westfield (which are the 43 miles of the river officially designated Wild and Scenic) are free-flowing from Cummington down through Chesterfield, from Worthington down along the Middlefield border and into

Chester, and from Becket along the Middlefield border down through Chester. They remain free-flowing not by accident, but by a concerted effort.

In the 1960s, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS), under Public Law 566, initiated an effort to build dams on many of the tributaries of many rivers across the state which included the Westfield. The SCS was then in charge of dams on tributaries and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was in charge of the main branch dams.

At least fifteen dams were planned for the upper reaches of the Westfield River, ostensibly

to protect the city of Westfield from flooding. In fact, it is doubtful that flood control benefits from the dams would have reached as far downstream as the city of Westfield.

As the Westfield River basin dam plans progressed, there was little attempt to involve the public. This was right around the time of the first Earth Day and the environmental movement was only in its infancy. Public participation was seldom solicited and there was no open meeting law.

When Robie Hubley, Steve Johnson, and Lincoln Brower caught wind of meetings that were being held to discuss these dams, they attended and started to ask questions about why dams were needed on the Westfield River.

Early in the PL 566 process, the SCS did not even refer to dams as such -- they used expressions such as "water management structures" instead. Along with questioning whether these structures were needed or would fulfill their ostensible purpose, Lincoln Brower and Robie Hubley questioned the scientific basis of the project and argued that the dams would harm the river. Steve Johnson discovered that SCS was planning hundreds of campsites around one of the dam impoundments in Middlefield, without considering how the town would deal with traffic that might be generated. Further questioning revealed that the campsites served only to produce a positive cost/benefit ratio for the project, not to fulfill any recreational need.

Steve Johnson took the information and plans that he had gotten at meetings and started showing them to the residents who would have been affected by this dam effort. He collected signatures on a petition. Lincoln Brower created a film called "The Flooding River," which illustrated the scientific benefits of natural flooding to the ecosystem. (The film is still available and shown to audiences across the country. It has played a major role in changing many people's attitudes towards flooding and has become a classic.)

The news traveled and soon residents were outraged enough to voice their objections to local SCS engineers and national officials. Many members of the public began attending the meetings and voicing opposition to the plans. The ad hoc citizen effort took on momentum and started getting attention.

After about five years of battling, the dam effort in the Westfield River basin slowly died. The citizen effort had successfully gotten SCS to give up on its plans. The engineer who was working on the project quit his job. The project manager on the



West Branch also quit his job. He then took a job protecting floodplains from development.

When the dams were canceled and the battle was won, the citizens who had fought the fight held a celebration picnic with bar-b-q chicken and the works. During this celebration in Worthington, a white van pulled up and out stepped Arlo Guthrie who set up his mike and sang, "This Land is Your Land." The memory still moves Robie Hubley as he relays the story. He reminds us of that great time in the early 1970s -- and this effort that nearly thirty years later still made a difference for a Wild and Scenic River.

## Stream Teams and Shoreline Surveys: Continued Success

Over forty Stream Teams have completed Shoreline Surveys, identified resources and problems and are working on behalf of their local streams. These Stream Teams and watershed associations are involving town officials - Conservation Commissions, Boards of Health, Departments of Public Works, Selectmen, and Planning Boards - in preparing for their surveys, in the action planning, and importantly, in implementing their Action Plans.

### AAS Program Staff

The Adopt-A-Stream Program is fielding more requests from watershed associations, Watershed Teams, and Conservation Commissions to create new Stream Teams. To assist with this work, Riverways has hired Amy Singler. Amy graduated from the University of Rochester with a degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and has been with the Program since February.

Amy is currently working with Stream Teams in the Merrimack, Chicopee, Blackstone, Ten Mile and SuAsCo watersheds. Amy works with watershed associations to organize steering committees, support outreach efforts, train groups to conduct Shoreline Surveys, and create Action Plans. Amy is doing much the same work as Becka Roof and Steven Lewis were doing last year.

To support Adopt-A-Stream groups in implementing their action plans, we have hired Rachel Calabro as Stream Team Technical Assistant. To fill this newly created position, Rachel brings expertise as a geologist and hydrologist. Rachel came to Riverways from the Coastal Resources Center at the University of Rhode Island. She received her Masters Degree in Geology from URI in 1997, and has worked on various coastal non-point source pollution and coastal hazards issues.

Rachel is developing materials as hand-outs and for our new Adopt-A-Stream Web Page. She is also putting Shoreline Surveys on a GIS map showing the extent of each of the surveys, the name of the Stream Team, a watershed Association contact, and a list of successes from the survey. Once this data is complete, it will be put on MassGIS and on our Web Page ([www.state.ma.us/dfwele/river\\_toc.htm](http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/river_toc.htm)).

Rachel is also working on "Frequently Asked Questions," or FAQs, listing questions and answers that we have compiled over the last few years. We are planning to add an Action Brochure and eventually an Action Manual with some case studies. Both Amy and Rachel can be reached at 617-727-1614 X 320.

### Building Support Networks

To help Conservation Commissions understand the work of Stream Teams - and to make it easier when you call them - Joan Kimball has been working with the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC). At their Annual Meeting, Joan teamed up with Bob O'Connor, Director of the Watershed Initiative, and Ellen Anderson, a Board Member and former President of the Neponset River Watershed Association to describe how Commissions can work with Stream Teams as part of the Watershed Initiative.

An upcoming article in the MACC newsletter will profile some case studies showing successful collaborations between Stream Teams and Conservation Commissions. We have recently met with all the Conservation Commissions and Boards of Health in the Northeast coastal area to brainstorm ways of working together. We also hope to work closely with the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards.

To support the work of Watershed Associations in forming Stream Teams, we have created several "Train the Trainers" groups: "Northeast Trainers" is composed of the watershed associations in the Ipswich, Parker, North Coastal, Merrimack and Nashua watersheds, Central Massachusetts Trainers, Blackstone and Chicopee; Western Massachusetts, Housatonic. These groups are the sources of great ideas and provide support for each other through problem solving and sharing of experiences. We welcome ideas of new locations for additional Train the Trainer Groups.

In addition to presentations at the River Advocates Forum, the Adopt-A-Stream Program also had a Stream Team Workshop at the SuAsCo River Visions Forum. Stream Teams and watershed associations (and interested folks) had an opportunity to share

stories and to hear Debby Dineen of the Sudbury Conservation Commission describe the benefits of working with the Hop Brook Protection Associations Shoreline Survey Team from the Commission's point of view.

Participants also viewed Mary Michelman's computer-generated report of the 150-member Stream Team work that she led in Acton. These were two outstanding presentations. Much of Mary's report (maps, stewardship tips, findings) can be found on OAR's Action Stream Team web page ([www.ultranet.com/~OAR/stream](http://www.ultranet.com/~OAR/stream)).

The Adopt-A-Stream Program looks forward to continuing its work with existing groups and with new groups. Please give Joan (X384), Amy (X320) or Rachel (X320) a call with questions, suggestions, plans for new groups, and support for action plans. See you on the rivers!

## River Advocates Forum

On May 8th, Stream Teams, urban advocates, and watershed associations came together in Worcester for the River Advocates Forum where they heard speakers and shared stories, questions and answers.

### A National Perspective

Tim Palmer, the Forum's keynote speaker, has been involved in river protection since 1970 as a writer, photographer, planner, conservationist, speaker, and consultant to citizen organizations. He is the author of several books including *Lifelines: the Case for River Conservation*, *Endangered Rivers* and *The Conservation Movement*, and *The Wild and Scenic Rivers of America*.

Tim talked about the power and beauty of rivers all over our country. From large rivers to slow flowing rivers, they are our lifelines. Forum attendees were challenged and assured of the importance of our work as Tim gave us a tour of rivers through the seasons and across our land in his breathtakingly beautiful slide show. Tim's slides also highlighted advocates and their stories. He said that

Many rivers are not able to be as they once were because of big dams. River conservationists have been fighting dams for decades, and thanks to advocates, the tide is turning: Stanislaus was our last big loss. We have been working on water quality and runoff issues: pipes, cattle, mining, development, and logging. Like thousands of these people and like you, we've stopped point sources, stopped dams, worked for instream flows.

We are now in the second phase of our work, restoration. Only 2% of our rivers are

*Continues, page 14*

### Urban Rivers Program receives EPA Environmental Merit Award

Maria Van Dusen and Anne Livingston received an Environmental Merit Award from Region I of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for their work in the Urban Rivers Program. The EPA award noted their great strides in helping local communities restore and revitalize their urban rivers and riverfronts.

Since the Program's beginning in 1996, Maria and Anne have worked to build stronger community organizations and increased interest in urban waterways. The organization's advice, grants and help in finding other funding sources have resulted in new parks, greenways and river guides in communities from Somerville to Pittsfield to Lowell.

The EPA also recognized the Urban Rivers Program efforts in forming the Greater Boston Urban Resources Partnership and their work with the Chelsea Creek Action Group to mobilize communities around the Chelsea Creek and Mill Creek.

Sixteen individuals and organizations from Massachusetts were honored on

April 22, 1999 by the EPA for their contributions to the environment. Thirty-nine recipients from around New England received Environmental Merit Awards at an Earth Day ceremony at

Faneuil Hall. The awards, given out since 1970, honor individuals and groups who have shown particular ingenuity and commitment in their efforts to preserve the environment. This year's competition drew more than 80 applications.

#### 1999 Urban River Fellows

The Urban Rivers Program was delighted to have received funding from the state legislature and the EPA to fund a second round of Urban River Fellows. Urban River Fellows are graduate students from local colleges and universities hired by the Urban River Program to assist community sponsored on-going projects.

Graduate student support enhances larger projects by providing the means to add a needed component and a forum for sharing what is happening on the river to the public. Each project chosen for graduate student support deals with an opportunity for improving or building awareness of urban rivers that has not been fully capitalized on in the past.

This spring, five Urban Fellows are working with local community sponsors on the following projects:

#### North River - Salem Sound 2000

Dennis Gaudet from Salem State College is creating a handbook for the city and prospective developers on how to redevelop industrial areas along the North River in an ecologically sound way. The Handbook is designed to assist city planners in Salem and Peabody and developers along the North River in identifying what is required under environmental regulations and what

improvements or restoration activities are needed to improve the quality of the North River.

#### Neponset River - Boston Natural Areas Fund

Elise MacDonald from Quincy College is researching issues around improving a fish passage on the Neponset River by learning about historic fisheries and river conditions. Her research will be used by BNAF to show how the river has changed and developing an outreach plan for a dam breaching study (see the Insert in this issue for details).

#### Alewife Brook - Alewife/Mystic River Advocates

Nathan Kelly from Tufts University is developing and carrying out an Urban Land Use Survey to identify potential sources of stormwater pollution flowing into Alewife Brook from the surrounding neighborhoods. Nathan will enter the information from the survey into a GIS map and compare the results from the survey with the water quality monitoring data recorded by volunteers. Nathan will be analyzing potential connections between pollutants measured in the

stream and activities on the land to assist in making recommendations for educational outreach to residents on reducing polluted runoff.

#### West Branch of the Housatonic River - Housatonic Valley Association

Shamu Fenyuesi from Berkshire Community College is researching clean-up of the abandoned King Street dump and determining the feasibility of developing a greenway along the West Branch of the Housatonic River in Pittsfield. Shamu has interviewed neighbors, city officials and former employees to determine what hazardous materials were deposited at the dump.

#### Monoosnoc Brook - Nashua River Watershed Association

Kathleen O'Connor from Tufts University is assisting in the outreach campaign for the Monoosnoc Brook Greenway Project by developing a book about the brook for 6th

graders, establishing brook patrols, and developing a business packet. Many of the materials will be translated into Spanish for the Hispanic community.

#### Urban Rivers Grants

This spring the Urban Rivers Program awarded six grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to six municipalities. The goal of the Urban Rivers Program is to involve more people from urban communities in activities that embrace their rivers as well as develop an understanding of the environmental and public health issues connected to their river.

To this end, we contribute fund to on-going projects that:

- revitalize urban riverfronts
- address the interests of city neighborhoods near rivers
- restore degraded habitats and anadromous fish runs in urban areas and protect healthy river systems.

A brief summary of the 1999 projects are listed below.

Mystic Valley Development Commission - Cities of Malden, Medford, Everett, will use their \$10,000 award to fund a preliminary assessment along the **Malden River** of the natural resources where releases of oil and/or hazardous materials may have affected the water quality, wildlife and habitat, and develop a strategy for a potential natural resource damage claim.

On the **Saugus River**, the Town of Saugus will apply \$8,800 toward creating final design plans for the Riverwalk and explore the concept of extending the Riverwalk in phases.

On the **Connecticut River**, the City of Holyoke will use \$8,200 hold community meetings and complete engineering designs for a ramp down from the top of the flood control levee in Springdale Park to the Connecticut River to create access for small recreational rowing shells and canoes.

The Town of Amesbury will conduct an ecological assessment on the Back River, a tributary to the **Powow River** with their \$5000 award. The assessment will be used to guide restoration of the stream and redevelopment in this area to ensure it does not degrade the river system. Funding will also be used to investigate the hydrology of an unnamed tributary flowing into the Powow River. The hydrological study will assess the cost and effectiveness of daylighting a culvert and restoring wetlands to reduce flooding and improve the health of the Powow River.

The City of Somerville will use an \$8000 award to produce a video and Public Service Announcement that provides concrete local examples and specific recommendations for the public to "make a difference" in stopping non-point source pollution to the **Mystic River**.

The City of Lawrence will use \$8000 to develop a business and resident based plan for recreational, pedestrian and parking improvements of the West Island along the **Merrimack River**. A temporary riverfront public art installation will highlight the importance of the area to the neighborhood and the city.

## Sharing Interns and Urban Fellows

Riverways has had some amazing interns over the years (See Postcards from the Field in the most recent Riverways Newsletters). This spring we were fortunate to have Kathleen O'Connor who is finishing her first year at Tufts Urban Environmental Program. Kathleen has put together the Rivers Month Calendar, worked on the Small Grants Program, a set of legislative information pieces and a compilation of funding sources for groups.

This year and last we paid stipends for five graduate students to serve as Urban River Fellows on urban river projects undertaken by municipalities and watershed groups.

Our interns are often looking for their next job so continue to let us know of openings. Jennifer Hill of the Watershed Institute came in this spring to take a look at their resumes and hired two applicants for their VISTA positions. Other agencies and watershed associations have begun to use our pool of resumes to find candidates.

We want to continue to match interns with position openings available at other agencies and non-government organizations. Contact our Riverways Program Assistant Pat Sheppard at 617-727-1614 x360 if you would like her to help you match your opening with an intern.

## Legislative Action, cont. from page 3 Conserving Water to Preserve Rivers

### Senate Bill 1042 and House Bill 3124, "An Act Establishing a Water Resources Conservation and Efficiency Program"

This bill would authorize the Departments of Environmental Management and Environmental Protection to create a water resource protection program, with the Ipswich River watershed serving as a pilot. DEP and DEM would also be charged with conducting a study of the state's water conservation policies from which they would make recommendations for policy improvements. Ten million dollars would be allocated to assist communities and water districts for water conservation programs plus the state would have its first Water Conservation Coordinator position.

An additional provision proposes interim flow standards for aquatic life protection and studies to develop instream flow methods. Increased efficiencies in water supply delivery and use will enable more water to be retained in the natural environment, where it is critically needed to sustain healthy aquatic and other water-dependent organisms and ecosystems. This proposed legislation should help effectively persuade communities to turn to increased efficiency as the first and best means to avoid water shortages. The Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture held a public hearing on May 24th, public comments are encouraged. Sponsored by Senator Tarr (R-Gloucester), Representative Petersen (D-Marblehead).

### Interbasin Transfer Act Guidance

In July, the Water Resources Commission will vote on performance standards that clarify what is meant by the requirement for communities to implement all practical water conservation measures prior to obtaining approval under the Massachusetts Interbasin Transfer Act. In particular, the guidance sets forth detailed recommendations on residential gallons per capita day (gpcd), unaccounted for water (UAW), rate structures, billing cycles, public education, and infiltration/inflow removal from sewers.

### Federal Bills

HR 623, introduced by Representative Knollenberg is a bill to eliminate certain regulations on plumbing supplies, specifically requirements for showerheads, faucets, and toilets to meet some level of water conservation standards. Mr. Knollenberg regards these requirements as "ridiculous federal mandates" and wishes to get the federal government out of our bathrooms and return a "voice of reason" to government.

At the moment the bill is in the Energy and Power subcommittee. Sent there on 24 February by the Committee on Commerce.

S. 188, sponsored by Senator Ron Wyder and Senator Burns, is a bill intent on amending the federal Water Pollution Control Act to expand the funding possibilities of the State Revolving Fund (SRF). The bill would allow states to use SRF money to promote water conservation and control polluted runoff. The bill was been read twice and sent to the Committee on Environment and Public Works in January.

## ISTEA/TEA-21 Update

**TEA-21**, the successor to ISTEA, authorizes \$3.3 billion (\$630 million yearly) on enhancements between 1998-2003, up from \$2.8 billion under the old law. The enhancements program was created by Congress to address the environmental impacts of highway construction on local communities. Twelve "activities" are eligible for funding, including walking and biking trails, historic preservation, scenic beautification, land acquisition and rail-trails. The National Transportation Enhancement Clearinghouse (888-388-6832, <[www.railtrails.org/ntec](http://www.railtrails.org/ntec)>) has details.

The *TEA-21 User's Guide*, by the Surface Transportation Policy Project, details its differences in emphasis from ISTEA (more \$ for repair/maintenance of existing highways rather than new highway construction, new \$ to help communities coordinate land use and transportation planning, etc.). The 70-page document is available for \$15 from STPP, (202) 466-2636, <[www.tea21.org](http://www.tea21.org)>. TEA-21 itself is available from the Government Printing Office at (202) 512-1808, or downloadable from the Web at <[www.fhwa.dot.gov](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov)>.

In Massachusetts, quite a few river, greenway and/or bikeway projects have received ISTEA/TEA-21 funding for some aspect of design and/or construction, including:

Assabet River Rail Trail, Acton/Hudson/  
Marlboro/Maynard  
Blackstone River Bikeway, Uxbridge  
Charles River MDC Bikepath, Watertown/  
Newton/Waltham  
Chicopee Riverwalk, Chicopee  
Connecticut Riverwalk, Agawam/W.  
Springfield  
Greenfield Riverside Bikeway, Green River  
Herring Brook Valley Trail, Pembroke  
Holyoke Canalwalk, Holyoke  
Housatonic River Greenway, Pittsfield  
Housatonic Riverwalk, Great Barrington  
Ipswich Riverwalk

*Continues, next page*

Merrimack Riverwalk, Haverhill/Methuen/  
Tewksbury  
Middlesex Canal, Billerica  
Millers River Greenway, Athol/Orange  
Nashua River (Ayer-Dunstable) Rail Trail  
Nashua River Trail, Leominster  
Neponset River Bikeway, Boston/Milton  
New Bedford Waterfront (Acushnet R.)  
Pawtucket Blvd. Bikeway, Tyngsboro  
(Merrimack R.)  
Quequechan River Path, Fall River  
Powow Riverwalk, Amesbury  
South Hadley Canal Restoration  
Taunton River Bike Trail, Taunton  
Upper Charles River Trail, Holliston  
Waltham Riverwalk (Charles R.)  
Ware River Valley Rail Trail, Ware/  
Hardwick  
Westfield Riverwalk (Westfield R.)

The Mass. Highway Department (MHD) also has a Public Lands Program, which has funded river/canal walks in Lowell.

Matt Amorello, MHD's new Commissioner, has expressed strong support for bikeways and other "green" projects. Unfortunately, however, an overall cap has been placed by Congress on Massachusetts' transportation-related expenditures of federal dollars, as some Congressional leaders felt the Commonwealth has gotten more than its fair share of highway money in the recent past. As the Central Artery Project (a.k.a. the "Big Dig") continues to use the lion's share of the spending cap on federal highway money allocated to Massachusetts, there is relatively little available federal money to fund other highway projects in the state, never mind bikeway or other "green" projects. Approximately \$10 million of Mass.'s allocation of federal TEA-21 money is expected to be spent on enhancement projects in this (FY99) and forthcoming fiscal years (a substantial drop in funding from enhancement allocations during the ISTEA years). The same goes for the Recreational Trails Program (a.k.a. the "Symmes" Program), which, in spite of TEA-21's authorization of \$270 million nationwide, and \$900,000 already authorized for Massachusetts, is only expected to fund around \$125,000 worth of projects this fiscal year.

Nevertheless, bikeway and other "green" projects can and should still receive some financial support from enhancement and/or other TEA-21 programs, such as the "CMAQ" (congestion mitigation air quality) program. Advocates for rail trails and other projects potentially fundable through TEA-21 are urged to contact their respective regional planning commissions (RPAs for short) and seek to get their project listed on the "TIP" (i.e. the RPA's TEA-21 wish/

priority list submitted to the Mass. Highway Dept.). Here is a list of RPA TEA-21 contacts:

**Berkshire Reg. Planning Commission**

Charles Cook (413) 422-1521  
<charles\_cook@mma.org>

**Cape Cod Commission**

Robert Mumford (508) 362-3828  
<pl@cape.com> (for Priscilla LeClere)

**Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission**

Carl Hellstrom (508) 756-7717  
<trans@ma.ultranet.com>

**Franklin Regional Council of Gvts.**

Linda L. Dunlavy (413) 774-1193  
<transpor@frcog.org>

**Martha's Vineyard Commission**

Andrew Grant (508) 693-3453

**Merrimack Valley Planning Comm.**

Anthony Komornick (978) 374-0519  
<mvpcc@aol.com>

**Metropolitan Area Planning Council**

Barbara Lucas (617) 451-2770  
<blucas@mapc.org>

**Montachusett Regional Planning Commission**

Brad Harris (978) 345-7376  
<mrpc@mrpc.org>

**Nantucket Planning and Economic Development Commission**

Beth Giannini (508) 228-7233  
<bethg@nantucket.net>

**Northern Middlesex Council of Governments**

Beverly Woods (978) 454-8021  
<nmcog@tiac.net>

**Old Colony Planning Council**

Pasquale Ciaremella (508) 583-1833  
<ocpc@ici.net>

**Pioneer Valley Planning Commission**

Dana Roscoe (413) 781-6045  
<droscoe@pvpc.org>

**Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District**

Roland Herbert (508) 824-1367  
<rherbert@srpedd.org>

Please call Russ Cohen at Riverways if you do not know which RPA(s) your project falls under. For additional general information about TEA-21 in Massachusetts, contact Josh Lehman, MHD's Bike/Ped. Coordinator (617-973-7329); Linda Walsh, Enhancements Coordinator (617-973-8052); Sarah Bradbury, Scenic Byways Program (617-973-7471); Peter Brandenburg, DEM's "Symmes" Planner (617-727-3180 ext. 655); or Craig Della Penna, New England Representative, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, (413) 789-7154, <railtrail@map.com>.

## American Heritage Rivers Update

Russ Cohen of Riverways is part of the core groups for both the Connecticut and the Blackstone/Woonasquatucket American Heritage Rivers and reports the following:

July 1st is the date for a ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by the New England Federal Partners, the Governors of Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts & Connecticut, the Heritage Rivers sponsors and others interested in working to make this new initiative a success.

At this time the Connecticut River's new Navigator Dan Burke will be introduced by John DeVillars, Regional Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency New England, along with the River Pilots from the respective federal agencies. Following the signing and a brief meeting, the Navigator will lead a tour of river and watershed sites and projects of special interest.

Johanna Hunter has been named the Navigator for the Blackstone/Woonasquatucket American Heritage Rivers. Johanna was officially introduced on May 18th via a series of meetings with her new constituency at several points in the watershed, including Providence, Woonsocket, Whitinsville and Worcester. Johanna expressed excitement about working in a watershed with so much already going on and so many people and groups already involved in various aspects of river protection/restoration and community revitalization.

Johanna's "inauguration" ceremony is currently scheduled for Monday, July 19th at Tupper Park, situated along the Blackstone at the MA/RI line.

## Momentum and Monies Build Volunteer Monitoring

The Massachusetts Watershed Initiative has brought many changes to watershed management, not the least of which is an unprecedented commitment to volunteer water quality monitoring. In the last budget session for fiscal year 1999 the legislature appropriated \$250,000 in support of volunteer monitoring. Of that, \$140,000 of that was awarded this spring through the Coastal Zone Monitoring Program to 31 volunteer coastal and inland water monitoring programs, sponsored by watershed associations, municipalities, land trusts, and schools.



Many environmental groups can cite monitoring as their first real organizational tool. For some regions of the state, volunteer-based monitoring provides the only continuous baseline of information in a watershed.

A large number of groups received money to purchase equipment or directly support their monitoring programs. Staff from different state agencies will be assisting the grant recipients with their work plans and preparation of grant stipulated Quality Assurance Project Plans. This funding will make cost effective gains in our understanding, management, and watershed protection efforts.

Money was also allocated to help volunteer groups strengthen their monitoring work through establishment of a network of regional entities capable of assisting volunteer groups with a range of needs. The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) has been working with several non-profit service organizations to establish a **Regional Service Providers Network** to enhance training and assistance for volunteer monitors. In fiscal year 1999 the Charles River Watershed Association, the Merrimack River Watershed Council, the Urban Harbors Institute, and the Community Foundation of Cape Cod all received small grants to enhance their ability to provide support in their respective geographic areas.

It is important to keep in mind that this network is very much in the experimental stage. For the present it largely means that many groups in the Merrimack and other drainages east of Route 495 have a new local source of information, networking, and services.

Another pool of money will fund the Massachusetts Water Watch Partnership (MassWWP) to promote and support the regional service providers while trying to coordinate the regional entities with the volunteer groups needing their assistance. Of course the MassWWP will continue their training, workshops, conferences, and development of helpful materials as they act as a state-wide service provider.

EOEA wants to gauge the potential of the grants program and the regional services network and to evaluate all aspects of volunteer monitoring in Massachusetts. To that end EOEA has contracted with the River Watch Network to do an assessment of community-based monitoring in Massachusetts. This involves:

establishing a Citizens Advisory Committee to provide broad-based input into the assessment conducting surveys of volunteer monitors, service providers, agency and other data users, and funders facilitating an

internet-based discussion of the survey results (Check MassWWP web page of updates at [www.umass.edu/tei/mwwp](http://www.umass.edu/tei/mwwp)) conducting a series of volunteer monitoring community meetings where issues will be explored in detail

The River Watch Network will work with Citizens Advisory Committee to produce a set of recommendations to EOEA on how volunteer monitoring can be a most effective force in Massachusetts. EOEA believes that volunteer monitoring can play a central role in environmental decision making and is working to bring this about across the state.

For more information, contact Jerry Schoen of MassWWP at 413-545-5532 or [jschoen@tei.umass.edu](mailto:jschoen@tei.umass.edu).

## Of Flows and Fishes

### The Science of Instream Flow

River advocates who have been involved in evaluating the ecological health of their rivers and streams will benefit from an instream flow workshop to be hosted by Riverways this fall. The Northeast Watersheds Roundtable is providing funding for the workshop through its Flow Subcommittee.

The goal of the workshop is to bring emerging science to decision-makers and river advocates. As designed, it will lay a foundation for considering the river's rights to flowing water as a public trust value and then provide technical presentations paired in themes that have emerged as regulatory and management agencies struggle with permit decisions.

Two questions that have been identified thus far to guide our search for experts in this area are:

How do we evaluate flow needs on a watershed or subwatershed scale with limited fisheries data? and What protective thresholds do we need for winter flows? For more information, contact Karen Pelto.

### Stressed Basins

Many Massachusetts tributaries and rivers have experienced periods of low to no-flow conditions. One question that the Massachusetts Water Resources Commission is grappling with is how to define a "stressed basin."

Vicki Gartland of the Department of Environmental Management is leading a subcommittee that is charged with determining the hydrologic characteristics of "stress." In addition, this group will identify how programs and policies affecting water, wastewater, and stormwater will put the definition to use in their review of proposed projects. The subcommittee has yet to discuss restora-

tion possibilities in currently "stressed" basins or how to protect those not yet showing the signs of hydrologic stress. For more information, contact Cindy DelPapa.

### One Fish, Two Fish

Volunteers organized by the Parker River Clean Water Association have, for the third year in a row, peered into the tumbling waters of the Parker River fishways to watch for returning alewives. During this spring, the run, which begins around April 15, was estimated to be 7000 fish. This represents an increase from the previous two years, but does not yet rival counts from the 1970's which estimated a population of approximately 35,000.

The fish will get a lift from the Essex County Sportsmens Association again this summer, as they use a Riverways Small Grant to repair the steps of one of the masonry pool-weir fishways. As part of the repair, they will construct a mold system that can be used to repair steps within any of the six fishways. The Sportsmen were one of the first groups to join the Fishway Stewardship Program.

In March, Riverways hosted a workshop for aspiring fish counters on other streams and "spawned" two fish watches on the Ipswich and Mystic Rivers. On the Mystic, alewives were spotted teeming throughout Alewife Brook - a good sign for this small beleaguered urban stream.

On the Ipswich, the Division of Marine Fisheries and the Ipswich River Watershed Association were interested in confirming returning blueback herring following the installation of a new fishway at the Sylvania Dam in 1997. Not only were fish spotted using the new Denil fishway, but they were also seen struggling to ascend the old pool-weir fishway at Foote Brothers Canoe.

Special thanks to Rich Tomczyk, Ipswich/Parker Watershed Team Leader, for working with the Ipswich River Watershed Association on organizing training workshops and to Dick Quinn, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for working with the Town of Ipswich Public Works to design and install a temporary counting board to ease fish viewing.

Riverways will host a follow-up workshop for groups involved in fish counts and watches to share their data and plan for next season's efforts. Contact Karen Pelto for more information.

Restoration efforts on the Ipswich and Neponset Rivers continue, with the Division of Marine Fisheries stocking both systems with thousands of blueback herring taken from the strong Charles River run.

## RESOURCES & GRANTS

### Grants

The new 7th (1999) edition of **Environmental Grantmaking Foundations** is now available both in print (\$94) and on CD-ROM (\$104) plus \$6 shipping and handling. This is a comprehensive guide to 750 of the most significant independent, community and company-sponsored foundations that fund environmental projects. This edition profiles 200 members of the Environmental Grantmakers Association plus over 500 foundations that give environmental grants. Each profile gives you the data you need to target your most likely sources of support. To order, contact Resources for Global Sustainability, P.O. Box 22770, Rochester, NY 14692-2770, (800) 724-1857, or Web site: <[www.home.eznet.net/~rgs](http://www.home.eznet.net/~rgs)>.

**Directory of Funding Sources for Grassroots River and Watershed Conservation Groups - 1997** is available for \$35 from River Network, P.O. Box 8787, Portland, OR 97207-8787, (800) 423-6747 or <[rivernet@igc.apc.org](mailto:rivernet@igc.apc.org)>. We also have a copy of this document in Riverways' office, which you are welcome to come in and look at. A regional version of this document, entitled the **Northeast Funding Directory for Grassroots River and Watershed Groups**, is currently in production and should be available later this year.

**Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)** donated \$70,000 in 1998 to support grassroots river conservation. The Seed Grant Program, which is administered by the National River Coalition, seeks to promote the protection of and public access to rivers. Grants range from \$200 to \$1,000 and can cover project-specific expenses such as printing, mailing, travel, phone and meetings. Grants cannot pay for salaries or for hiring outside consultants. Project proposals must focus on one or more of the following six criteria and have measurable results:

(1) River recreation: Promotion of river recreation that is muscle-powered and environmentally sustainable, with emphasis on projects to improve river access;

(2) Lobbying for Rivers: Advocacy designed to protect rivers through local, state or federal legislation, with emphasis on Wild and Scenic River designation or management;

(3) State River Policies: Improvement of state river policies and watershed protection through legislation or regulation;

(4) Hydropower Reform: Protection of river resources and recreational opportunities, with emphasis on dam licensing or relicensing;

(5) New Strategies: Targeted responses to the nation's new political realities, with emphasis on economic arguments for river protection and broadening the effectiveness or local outreach and advocacy;

(6) Urban River Restoration: Efforts to protect and restore urban waterways through community organizing, public outreach, lobbying and other activities.

The Coalition meets three times and has three deadlines: June 1, August 20 and November 20. For application guidelines, contact National Rivers Coalition c/o Chad Smith, American Rivers, 1025 Vermont Ave., N.W., Suite 720, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 547-6900 (voice), (202) 347-9240 (fax), <[chadsmith@amrivers.org](mailto:chadsmith@amrivers.org)> (e-mail).

The **D.I.R.T.** ("Direct Impact on Rivers and Trails") Program provides grants ranging from \$2,500 - \$5,000 for projects that will directly result in enhanced public access to and/or along rivers and other recreational resources; over \$200,000 has been given out to date. Past funded projects include: river cleanups along a heavily-used recreational waterway in Oregon; invasive species removal and fencing out livestock along a river greenway in San Diego; construction of a boat ramp to serve an urban waterway in Virginia; and restoring recreational river flows for an Idaho whitewater river. The next proposal due date is July 7, with grants awards announced on August 13th. Please send proposals to: PowerBar, Inc., ATTN: DIRT Program, 2150 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94710. More information is available on the Web at <[www.powerbar.com/whowere/dirt](http://www.powerbar.com/whowere/dirt)>.

The **Environmental Support Center's Environmental Loan Fund** provides loans up to \$50,000 to enable nonprofit grassroots environmental groups to stabilize, increase and diversify their long-term funding base. The Loan Fund also has money available (up to \$2,000 per year per group, 10% local match required) to help grassroots groups hire a professional consultant to design a project that will produce long-term income (as well as pay off the ESC loan). Deadlines for applying for a loan are March 15, June 15, September 15 and January 15. For more information, contact Pam Macedonia, ESC's Loan Fund Manager, at (202) 966-9834, <[loanfund@envsc.org](mailto:loanfund@envsc.org)> or via the Internet at <[www.envsc.org](http://www.envsc.org)>.

#### **OMB WATCH: Nonprofits, policy, and technology grants & awards**

1999 NPT Pilot Project Grants assist nonprofit efforts that employ information technology tools and strategies to develop or bolster their public policy activities. Up to

\$65,000 will be distributed this year, with individual grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000. The full 1999 Grant Guidelines and 1998 recipients list can be obtained by sending a blank e-mail message to <[nptgrants@lyris.ombwatch.org](mailto:nptgrants@lyris.ombwatch.org)>.

**1999 NPT Innovation Awards:** The second year of recognizing organizational technology strategies used by nonprofit organizations in public policy activities that demonstrate effectiveness, innovation, and lessons learned. Monetary awards range from \$1,000 to \$3,000. View the guidelines and the 1998 list of winners by sending a blank e-mail message to <[nptawards@lyris.ombwatch.org](mailto:nptawards@lyris.ombwatch.org)>. For more information, visit the NPT Project website at: <[www.ombwatch.org/ombw/npt/](http://www.ombwatch.org/ombw/npt/)> or contact OMB Watch's Ryan Turner by email at <[turnerr@ombwatch.org](mailto:turnerr@ombwatch.org)> or phone at 202-234-8494.

#### **Grant \$\$ Available for Projects Relating to Drinking Water Protection**

DEP's Drinking Water Program recently announced the availability of funds under its new **Technical Assistance/Land Management Grant Program**. Examples of eligible projects include: promoting vegetated riparian buffer zones at agricultural and other sites; educating public officials, businesses and residents on local drinking water issues; coordinating and improving emergency response to spills, etc; developing a local surface water supply protection plan per DEP criteria; and providing technical assistance on water conservation.

The maximum grant to be awarded is \$45,000, with a total of \$490,000 expected to be available during this funding round. Eligible applicants are technical assistance providers such as: Regional Planning Agencies, Conservation Districts, Land Trusts, Citizens' Groups, Business Associations, Volunteer Boards and Commissions, Educational Institutions, Watershed Associations and State Agencies. Public water suppliers are not eligible to apply directly for funding but are encouraged to collaborate with eligible organizations on projects of mutual interest. The public water supply for which the grant is targeted must be an active source.

Land trusts, watershed associations and/or other eligible groups could submit a proposal to identify parcels and ownerships and prepare outreach materials (such as newsletters and brochures) to promote the protection of currently unprotected open space contributing surface and/or groundwater flow to public water supply reservoirs, wells and other withdrawal points. This could include underwriting the costs of a campaign to convince a town (via a vote at town meeting) to pass a bond or take other means to raise the

necessary funds to acquire such land.

The grant money could also be used for developing protocols for managing recreational access to public water supply lands (i.e., to enable the development, maintenance and use of a trail system passing through watershed lands in a manner that is consistent with public water supply protection). [For example: Mark Robinson, Director of the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, has found that Cape Cod water suppliers, both town water depts. and quasi-public water districts, are cooperative in allowing on-foot access across their lands for the Cape Cod Pathways regional trail network.]

Proposals are due at 12 noon on **August 20**; grant award recipients will be notified October 1. RFPs are available on the Web at <www.comm-pass.com> or by contacting the DEP representatives below. No matching funds are required, but an applicant's securement of matching funds increases the chance their proposal will receive a favorable review. These grants may be used for surface water or groundwater public water supply sources, but surface water sources will receive preference for funding.

Grant money is available on a reimbursement-for-services-rendered basis, with reimbursement checks issued on a quarterly basis. Projects should be one to two years in duration, with extension permitted for good cause. For more information, contact Kathy Romero (617) 292-5727 or Catherine Sarafinas (617) 556-1070 at DEP's Drinking Water Program or visit DEP's web site at <www.state.ma.us/dep>.

EPA's Office of Water has recently published a document entitled **Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection** to provide information to State/local water resource professionals and watershed groups on Federal monies that might be available to fund a variety of watershed protection projects. The new Catalog contains one-page fact sheets for each of the 52 funding sources (grants and loans) that indicate to the reader the type of projects funded and eligibility. Contacts and Internet sites are provided for each of the programs so the reader can obtain further information.

Copies of the Catalog are available from NCEPI in Cincinnati at: phone (513) 489-8190 or (800)490-9198 and fax (513)489-8695. Please include the document number (EPA841-B-97-008) in requests to NCEPI. This document is also on Internet at the Watershed Academy's homepage at: <www.epa.gov/OWOW/watershed/wacademy/fund.html>. We also have a copy in the Riverways office which you're free to come in and browse.

This document is part of EPA's Watershed Academy Information Transfer Series and is number 11 in the series. This series was developed to provide information to watershed practitioners about different aspects of watershed management. Documents in the series are also available from NCEPI and on the Watershed Academy's homepage at: <www.epa.gov/OWOW/watershed/wacademy/its.html>.

If you have any comments or questions about this new Catalog, please contact Anne Weinberg, (202) 260-7107 and Joan Warren, (202) 260-7796 in EPA's Watershed Branch.

## Upcoming Events

**Earth Days Calendar** is a periodically-updated listing of environmental and/or outdoors-related events held in Massachusetts. The calendar is accessible via the Web at <www.magnet.state.ma.us/envir/earth.htm>. For more information, contact Meg Colclough at (617) 727-9800 ext. 218.

The Watershed Academy, US EPA, New Hampshire Dept. of Environmental Services, UNH Extension Service, New England River Watch, Council of State Governments, Green Mountain Institute and other sponsors are hosting a one-week session of **Working at a Watershed Level** on the UNH campus in Durham, NH August 16-20. The course addresses watershed ecology, system dynamics, assessment and analysis, planning/management approaches, remediation strategies, public involvement, and outreach/education. Also included are reviews of regional case studies and field trips on assessment and best management practices.

Information is available on the Internet at <www.statesnews.org/ecos/working.htm> or from Barry Tinning at <btinning@csg.org> (606.244.8228) and Malissa McAlister at <mcalister@csg.org> (606.244.8243). Tuition is \$250; scholarships for non-profit groups are available.

## Publications

A thoroughly revised and updated version of **Saving America's Countryside: A Guide to Rural Conservation**, by Samuel Stokes, Elizabeth Watson and Shelley Mastran, has recently been published by the Johns Hopkins University Press (<www.press.jhu.edu>). The book is a comprehensive guide to organizing a rural conservation effort, from initial inventory to setting up land trusts and working with local and federal authorities. It includes case studies from across the nation, instructive features, and a new chapter on making economic development compatible with rural conservation. Call (800) 537-5487 for more information.

A new book of water conservation success stories from California offers some universally useful ideas. **Sustainable Use of Water - California Success Stories** (Pacific Institute) is the culmination of a two-year study of water practices in the state. Details are provided on forty success stories in the areas of cooperative partnerships, improved use of existing technologies, pricing mechanisms, regulatory incentives and motivations, and effective use of data. An Executive Summary of this book can be found on the Web at <www.pacinst.org>. The full report can be ordered from the Pacific Institute for \$20.00 per copy (includes shipping). Contact Lorelei Muenster, (510) 251-1660 or <pistaff@pacinst.org>.

**"Greenways"** is the name of a quarterly letter put out by the Rhode Island Greenways Congress. Contact Greenways, c/o Vision Rhode Island, One Allens Ave., Providence, RI 02903 to get on the mailing list.

Seeking to encourage the trend of environmental group-business partnerships, the Alliance for Environmental Innovation, a joint project of the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Environmental Defense Fund, recently issued guidelines and strategies for environmental advocacy groups seeking to work with business. The report, **Catalyzing Environmental Results: Lessons in Advocacy Organization-Business Partnerships**, is available free on request from EDF Publications, 1875 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20009, 202-387-3500, or on-line at <www.edf.org/more/10507>.

**"50 Ways to Get Political"** is a pamphlet reprinted by Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream. It was originally prepared by the editors of *In Context*, a quarterly of "Humane Sustainable Culture". This inspirational list is available at Ben & Jerry's retail outlets or through In Context's Web site at <www.context.org>.

**Earth Work** magazine, published by the Student Conservation Association, Inc. contains over 100 job listings at all employment levels nationwide in every monthly issue, along with articles focusing on the people, agencies and organizations that protect and preserve our parks, forests and other natural resources. The cost is \$24.95 six issues, \$34.95/year. Through cooperative agreements with several book publishers, Earth Work is also able to offer discounted titles include "Great Careers for People Who Like Being Outdoors" and "The New Complete Guide to Environmental Careers". For more information, contact the SCA at P.O. Box 550, Charlestown, NH 03603 (603) 543-1700.

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**The River Book**, by James Grant MacBroom, recently published by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, is a "must-read" for all people working on and/or concerned about rivers and riparian areas. This book explains the complex interactions among fluvial morphology, ecology, hydrology, water quality and hydraulic factors in a highly readable and profusely illustrated manner. The book documents the myriad natural functions and values of rivers, streams and adjacent lands and how human activities have altered and degraded these functions and values. Some guidelines for successful riparian restoration projects are also presented. Although its focus is on Connecticut river systems, the issues are substantially the same as those encountered in and along Massachusetts rivers. This hardcover book costs \$45 and is available from CT DEP Publications, 79 Elm St., Hartford, CT 06106-5127, (860) 424-3644, <allan.williams@po.state.ct.us>.

Last but not least, the Essex County Greenbelt Association and The Trustees of Reservations, on behalf of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, have recently published a revised and updated edition of **Land Conservation Options: A Guide for Massachusetts Landowners**. This guide is an indispensable resource for land trusts, watershed associations, attorneys, accountants and others interested in protecting riparian and other important open space in a manner consistent with landowners' estate planning and other objectives. This revision includes up-to-date examples of land protection projects, planning and tax information for gifts of land and conservation restrictions, and reflects the 1997 Taxpayer Relief Act and federal and Massachusetts estate tax law. Notes, a glossary, and sources of information are also included. To order (\$3.00 each for 1-20 copies, \$2.50 each for more than 20 copies, plus \$1.50 postage and handling for each copy), contact: Land Conservation Center, The Trustees of Reservations, 572 Essex St., Beverly, MA 01915, (978) 524-1869. Land Trusts and other land conservation advocates will want to have many copies of this Guide on hand to pass along to landowners and/or their legal and tax advisors as part of an overall land protection strategy as well as to take full advantage of specific opportunities as they arise.

## Services

The **Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)** has recently established a "circuit river" contact person in each of its four regional offices to provide assistance on the Rivers and Wetlands Protection Acts to the respective communities within that

region. Those people are: for DEP's Northeast Office: Mike Abell, (978) 661-7811; DEP Southeast: Dave Hill, (508) 946-2730; DEP Central: Nancy Reed (508) 792-7650; and DEP's Western Region: Susan Gillan, (413) 784-1100.

## Videos

The **Blackstone Headwaters Coalition** Education Task Force recently produced a 30-minute educational video entitled "*What is a Watershed?*", using the Blackstone as an example. The video features local students finding out how land uses impact the watershed as well as what innovative and inexpensive ways we can improve the water quality of our waterways. Contact Karyn Pageau of the NRCS at (508) 829-6628 to obtain a copy.

"*Restoring America's Streams*" is a new 28-minute video produced by the **Izaak Walton League** that helps people learn to stabilize eroding streambanks and restore degraded streamside forests. The video demonstrates environmentally sound techniques for streambank restoration, called bioengineering, that rely on woody vegetation and special planting patterns to help hold eroding streambanks in place. Call (800) BUG-IWLA (284-4952) to order a copy.

"*Who Cares for the Trees*" is an award-winning, 30-minute video about the benefits of trees in urban areas. Filmed in location at Boston's Emerald Necklace and the Muddy River, the video is available from the Massachusetts Community Forestry Council at (781) 891-7760.

If you would like up-to-date information and action alerts about federal clean water issues and decisions, e-mail the Clean Water Network at <cleanwaternt@igc.acp.org> and ask to be subscribed to the Clean Water Network listserv.

**PLEASE NOTE:** For a complete listing of on-line resources compiled by Russ Cohen, see the expanded edition of the Riverways Newsletter at our web site, [www.state.ma.us/dfwele/river\\_toc.htm](http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/river_toc.htm).

## On-line Resources

### U.S. Government Databases now available via the Internet

The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) makes the following documents available on-line at no cost: Federal Register (since 1994); Congressional Bills; Congressional Record; General Accounting Office Reports; Government Privacy Act System Notices; Monthly Catalog of Government Publications; Public Laws; U.S. Code; and Pathways to other U.S. Government Information. Government databases can be

reached via the Internet or by dial-in in the following ways: (1) Full text and graphics are accessible via a Web browser at the Superintendent of Documents' Home Page: <[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs)>; (2) Text only is accessible via Telnet (<[swais.access.gpo.gov](http://swais.access.gpo.gov)>; login as <guest>) or dial-in through modem (settings 8,N,1) at (202) 512-1661, type <swais>, login as <guest>. The GPO also has a wide variety of Government information available on CD-ROM, diskette and magnetic tape. For more information, contact the GPO at (202) 512-1530 (voice), (202) 512-1262 (fax), <[gpoaccess@gpo.gov](mailto:gpoaccess@gpo.gov)> (e-mail).

Recently, the EPA completed work on the Safe Drinking Water Information System. The data base is accessible via the Web at <[http://mountain.epa.gov/enviro/html/sdwis/sdwis\\_query.html](http://mountain.epa.gov/enviro/html/sdwis/sdwis_query.html)>

The database provides information on water supply systems throughout the country including information on compliance and violations. You can search the database by system name, county, population served, or the system's PWS ID number. One of the most important ways to illustrate the need for protecting rivers and better managing our watersheds is to talk drinking water quality. It is a subject in which people take an immediate interest and one which can highlight the impacts of non-point source pollution and its effects on our communities. This new database, which the EPA has established as part of its mandate under the Safe Drinking Water Act, will be a tremendous help to everybody concerned about the quality and safety of their drinking water.

The **U.S. EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (OWOW)** has established the **River Corridors and Wetlands Restoration Web Site** at <<http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore>>. To subscribe to **WaterNews**, EPA OWOW's weekly on-line publication, send an e-mail message leaving the subject line blank, and address it to <[listserver@unixmail.rtpnc.epa.gov](mailto:listserver@unixmail.rtpnc.epa.gov)>, while in the body of the message write Subscribe waternews firstname lastname. Send an e-mail to <[Posey.Gloria@epa.gov](mailto:Posey.Gloria@epa.gov)> if you need additional help.

### Surf Your Watershed

<<http://www.epa.gov/surf/>>

### Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

<<http://www.irs.ustreas.gov>>

This site contains the entire U.S. Tax code, as well as IRS publications such as Publication 78, the cumulative list of '501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organizations. Publication 78 can be searched by name and location of the organization, or you can browse through the list alphabetically, or download the entire document.

**American Heritage Rivers Home Page:** <<http://www.epa.gov/rivers/>>

**National Park Services's Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program** <<http://www.cr.nps.gov/rtca/rtc/rctahome.html>>

**USGS Mass./RI Public Web Site** <<http://mass1.er.usgs.gov>>

Current streamflow data for 25 real-time reporting stations in Massachusetts and Rhode Island are presently accessible via the USGS Web site. Historical streamflow records and groundwater data are also available at this Web site.

On a related topic, the federal government has established a Web page specifically devoted to research methods and other topics related to **instream flow**: <<http://www.mesc.nbs.gov/rsm>>.

The **USDA's Stream Systems Technology Center** recently activated a Website on the Internet at URL: <<http://www.stream.fs.fed.us>> The major purpose of the Website is to assist in the timely and efficient access to stream and watershed-related information and tools, including past issues of its quarterly newsletter, entitled *Stream Notes: To Aid in Securing Favorable Conditions of Water Flows*.

**USDA Economic Research Service** <<http://www.econ.ag.gov>> Here you can download a document entitled "Partial Interests in Land: Policy Tools for Resource Use and Conservation", which explains how government is using conservation easements as an alternative to regulation or outright purchase to protect riparian areas and other resources.

### Non-government on-line resources:

**America Outdoors** <<http://www.americaoutdoors.org>>

This site contains information on how to participate in National River Cleanup Week.

**American Canoe Association** <<http://www.aca-paddler.org>>

**American Water Works Association** <<http://www.awwa.com>>

**Appalachian Mountain Club's Virtual Visitors' Center** <<http://www.outdoors.org>>

**Bicycle Coalition of Massachusetts (BCOM)** <<http://www.massbike.org>>

**Conservation Fund** <[www.conservationfund.org](http://www.conservationfund.org)>

The Conservation Fund's Website has information on the organization's land conservation services, Freshwater Institute research,

and professional conservation training opportunities as well as an on-line version of its *Common Ground* newsletter.

**Endangered Species Coalition** <<http://www.stopextinction.org/>>

This Web page is devoted to protecting and strengthening the federal Endangered Species Act.

**Environmental Law Institute (ELI)** <<http://www.eli.org>>

You can use this site to get access to a document entitled "Protecting Wetlands: Tools for Local Governments in the Chesapeake Bay". This document is designed to assist local governmental officials, landowners, community activists and others in identifying and using a variety of regulatory and non-regulatory tools for protecting wetlands. Although the focus of the document is the Chesapeake Bay watershed, a number of the techniques discussed are applicable to Massachusetts.

**Environmental News Network (ENN)** <<http://www.enn.com>>

ENN specializes in environmental science reports culled from various media outlets. ENN's Web site also offers audio reports using Real Audio software, and users can sign up for a free E-mail newsletter.

**Environmental Working Group** <<http://www.ewg.org>>

The Environmental Working Group publishes a fascinating biweekly newsletter on the activities of the so-called "Wise Use" movement called CLEAR View. You can check out this newsletter at EWG's Web site.

**Global Rivers Environmental Education Network (GREEN)** <<http://www.econet.apc.org/green>>

**International Rivers Network (IRN)** <<http://www.irn.org>>

IRN's Web site has hundreds of items on river campaigns around the world and links to other sites of interest. It is updated twice a week. One item IRN offers is the *River of Words Teacher's Guide*, 1996, 50pp. \$5. Classroom and field activities on watersheds for grades k-12. Supports IRN's national "River of Words" environmental poetry and art contest, conducted annually in partnership with The Library of Congress Center for the Book.

**League of Conservation Voters Education Fund** <<http://www.lcv.org/edfund/>>

If you're an environmental activist looking for on-line resources, this Web site provides help in growing your environmental grassroots, building organizing skills and

communicating with other environmentalists on the state and local level. For already established groups, this site makes it easy for environmental activists to access information about your organization. Each month the LCV Web site highlights a "Local Group of the Month" to recognize outstanding work on behalf of environmental protection. You can let the world know about the good deeds of your environmental group by nominating it to be considered as an upcoming "Local Group of the Month".

**Lincoln Institute of Land Policy** (offers courses and publications relating to land use and taxation) <<http://www.lincolnst.edu/lincoln>>

**Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom** <<http://www.umass.edu/umext/programs/4H/massag/mac.html>>

**Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC)** <<http://www.angelfire.com/biz/MACC>>

**Mystic River Watershed Web Page** <<http://www.cee.tufts.edu/~edowns/mystic/html>>

**National Center for Nonprofit Boards (NCNB)** <<http://www.ncnb.org>>

The NCNB is dedicated to increasing the effectiveness of nonprofit organizations by strengthening their boards of directors. Publications listed in NCNB's Nonprofit Board Resource Catalog include *All Hands on Board: The Board of Directors in an All-Volunteer Organization*, written especially to address the needs of grassroots groups. To learn more about NCNB's publications, workshops and consulting services, call (800) 883-6262.

**Natural Areas Journal** (published quarterly by the Natural Areas Association) <<http://www.vmedia.com/naj>>

**New England Botanical Club** <<http://www.herbaria.harvard.edu/nebc/>>

**New England Wild Flower Society** <<http://www.ultranet.com/~newfs/newfs.html>>

**Rails-to-Trails Conservancy** <<http://www.railtrails.org>>

This site provides comprehensive information on all aspects of rail-trail development and use, such as national legislative issues impacting rail-trails and detailed state-by-state listings of trails and contact information. This Web page will keep you apprised of developments in the reauthorization of ISTEA and the Bikes Belong! campaign.

*Continues, page 15*



## ***Rivers Forum, continued from page 5***

left in outstanding pristine condition; we need to work to restore the other 98%. We need to stop and think what rivers mean to us, to our future, to the future of our children. We all have the obligation to live simply on the earth, and to be politically aware. In addition, we also should continue work in our groups and adopt these streams as our own.

Tim congratulated the members in attendance and said that there is "no state program in the U.S. that provides support to groups in the way that the Riverways Programs does."

### **Workshops and Field Trips**

To read more about the Workshops, log on the Riverways Web Page under Rivers Advocate Forum Proceedings. Special thanks to all our panelists.

#### **Problem Solving: Working with Universities on Urban Rivers**

This workshop highlighted the Riverways Urban Rivers Fellows Program. Watershed Associations, Stream Teams, Land Trusts and other groups submitted proposals of ongoing projects that would be improved by study and work conducted by a graduate student.

From those proposals, five were selected to have fellows work on projects in watersheds across the state. Fellows from the following projects presented their work which included solving nonpoint source problems, working with the public, working with schools, and historical surveys of fishways.

##### **Panelists:**

Dennis Gaudet - Salem State College/Salem Sound 2000

Elise MacDonald - Quincy State College/Boston Natural Areas Fund

Nathan Kelly - Tufts University/Alewife Mystic River Advocates

Kathleen O'Conner - Tufts University/Nashua River Watershed Association & Monoosnoc

Greenway Project

Please see the Urban Rivers Update article more information on these projects.

#### **Problem Solving: Sustaining Stream Teams Across the State**

Focusing on finding and sustaining membership in Stream Teams, three speakers drew on their several years experience. The workshop was practical, interesting and highly interactive. One attendee said that she wished it had continued another hour - she learned so much from each speaker.

##### **Panelists:**

Becka Roolf, Executive Director, Parker River Clean Water Association

Daniele Lantagne, Project Manager, Ipswich River Watershed Association

Jeremy Sokulsky, Executive Director, Salem Sound 2000

#### **Problem Solving: Working with Local Officials in Your Town or City**

Using three examples of work in communities, the speakers gave tips on working with municipal officials to protect resources of their brooks. In Somerville and Grafton, work on nonpoint source pollution and innovative land protection followed Shoreline Surveys and Action Plans. Both these projects were listed on the Action plans. In Worcester, the Mill Brook Task Force, an innovative Stream Team comprised of business owners and municipal officials (DPW and Board of Health) works to protect the Mill Brook.

##### **Panelists:**

Lisa Brukilacchio, Alewife Mystic River Advocates, City of Somerville

Donna Williams, Miscoe Brook Stream Team, Grafton Conservation Commission, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Worcester

Tristan Lundgren, Mill Brook Task Force

#### **Problem Solving: Working with the Watershed Initiative on Behalf of your River or Stream**

Two Watershed Team Leaders talked about how to work effectively with Watershed Teams and state agencies. In response from requests from Stream Teams, Lynn Welsh described ways of working with state agencies on hazardous waste sites. Tom O'Brien and Shep Evans talked about Stream Team-Watershed Team collaboration; Tom from the Watershed Team Leader's perspective, and Shep from the Stream Team perspective.

##### **Panelists:**

Lynn Welsh, Blackstone River Watershed Team Leader

Shep Evans, Stream Team Coordinator, Housatonic Valley Association

Tom O'Brien, Housatonic and Hoosic Rivers Watershed Team Leader

#### **GIS Presentation**

Thanks to Aleda Freeman who gave a fascinating and clear computer presentation of Mass GIS tools, how to get them and how to use them. Some of this information can be downloaded from the MA GIS site, and other information may be ordered from MA GIS. Online, on their web page [www.magnet.state.ma.us/mgis/massgis.htm], you

can find information including "products and services," "downloading data" and "how to order."

#### **Field Trip**

Due to rain, only one of the field trips took place. Thanks to leaders Ron and Rachel who took a stalwart group out in the rain to Kendrick Brook to look at possible remediation of a stream bank and wetland. Ron gave a clear description of some of the improvements that could be made and described how folks can work with Conservation Districts and the Natural Resources Conservation Services. Rachel discussed the hydrology of the stream and the characteristics that had been seen in late March/early April before the vegetation was lush and before the stream was full. The group concluded that it is essential to see prospective sites in different seasons and conditions before undertaking a project.

Thanks to leaders:

Ron Thompson, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Services

Rachel Calabro, Technical Assistance, Riverways Program

Thanks also to those of you who attended the Forum and brought your insights, your stories and your experiences. One veteran conference-goer said "This is one of the most professional conferences I've ever attended. The level of discussion was superb."

The River Advocates Forum, held in Worcester Polytechnic Institute was sponsored by the Riverways Adopt-A-Stream Program and the Riverways Urban Rivers Program, and cosponsored by the National Park Service, Environmental Protection Agency, the Massachusetts Audubon Society in Worcester, the Massachusetts Watershed Coalition, and the Regional Environmental Council.

If you are interested in attending a future River Advocates Forum, contact Joan Kimball at 617-727-1614 x384.

## ***Resources & Grants, cont. from p. 13***

#### **River Management Society (RMS)**

<<http://www.river-management.org>>

#### **River Network**

<<http://www.rivernetwork.org>>

River Network, a nonprofit organization providing technical support to grassroots river conservation efforts nationwide, recently updated its webpage to include more useful information for river and watershed protection/restoration. Look here for articles on strategic planning; watershed approaches; fundraising; drinking water; floodplains; boards of directors; etc.

### Sierra Club

<<http://www.sierraclub.org/transportation>>

This Web page contains more information on the Sierra Club's Anti-Sprawl Campaign, including *The Dark Side of the American Dream* (a report on the costs and consequences of sprawl) and the *Campaign Tool Kit* (an activist's guide to running a local anti-sprawl campaign).

### Soil and Water Conservation Society

<<http://www.netins.net/showcase/swcs/>>

### Student Conservation Association

<<http://www.sca-inc.org>>

For the last forty years, the Student Conservation Association (SCA) has been helping people gain the experience they need to begin or advance their conservation careers. SCA is dedicated to contributing to the resources available for students and professionals looking to further their careers that make a difference.

### Surface Transportation Policy Project (STPP)

<<http://www.transact.org>> and <<http://www.tea21.org>>

The STPP is the chief environmental advocate on transportation-related issues at the federal level. It is largely responsible for the environment-friendly provisions of ISTEA, recently reauthorized as TEA-21, the Transportation Act for the 21st Century. STPP also publishes *Progress*, a free newsletter published 10 times per year, and *Transfer*, a weekly electronic update (send request to <[transfer@transact.org](mailto:transfer@transact.org)>).

### Transportation for Livable Communities

<<http://www.tlcnetwork.org>>

Sponsored by the Conservation Law Foundation, this site focuses on key community transportation issues like road design, public transit, the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists, and traffic calming.

### University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension

<<http://www.umass.edu/umext/>>

**Wampanoag Paddlers** (S.E. Mass. canoeing club - many events open to the public)

<<http://www.geocities.com/colosseum/4153>>

### Water Environment Federation

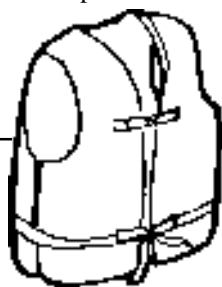
<<http://www.wef.org>>

### Westfield River Watershed Association

<<http://bondo.wsc.mass.edu/dept/garp/wrwa/wrwa.htm>>

Last but not least, **Eco-Compass** is an electronic newsletter featuring Web sites of interest to professionals, academics and citi-

zen activists concerned with the environment. Each new Eco-compass issue addresses an emerging environmental topic, briefly describing and linking to the best sites related to that topic. Eco-Compass is provided as a public service to the on-line community by Island Press, a non-profit publisher of books that take a solutions-oriented approach to environmental problems. To subscribe to Eco-Compass directly, simply e-mail a request to: <[Majordomo@igc.apc.org](mailto:Majordomo@igc.apc.org)>, leave the subject line blank and in the body write: <subscribe islandpress-1>.



### Paddle Smart from the Start- Wear Your Life Jacket!

Those of you plying Massachusetts waters in canoe and kayak thanks to the guidance of your 1999 Riverways Rivers Month Calendar should be aware of a new public outreach campaign by the Boat and Recreational Safety Bureau of the Massachusetts Environmental Police.

According to Director Richard Murray, there has been an increase in fatalities among canoe and kayak enthusiasts attributable to paddlers not wearing, and in many cases, not even carrying, life jackets on their journeys. Many paddlers are not aware of the requirement that canoeists and kayakers are required by law to wear a life jacket at all times under-way, from September 15 to May 15 of the following year.

Inside this newsletter you will find a boat/bumper sticker to help raise safety awareness among paddlers on your river. The Safety Bureau sponsors free boating safety programs for youth and adults; for more information call 617-727-8760.

### Please Note:

The yearly submission deadline for placing events in the Rivers Month Calendar is **April 15th** - our apologies for not being able to include information submitted to us after that date.

Riverways is in the process of adding e-mail addresses to our mailing/contact list for those organizations, agencies and individuals that have them. If you have an e-mail address (and do not believe we already know it), please send it along to us by sending an e-mail message to <[russ.cohen@state.ma.us](mailto:russ.cohen@state.ma.us)>. Thanks.

Riverways is in the process of "downsizing" its mailing list to 2,000 addresses (from its current level of 2,250). So, if you no longer have the time and/or interest in reading the Riverways Newsletter and Rivers Month Calendar, please let us know so that we may remove you from our list. Thanks!

### Riverways Programs 617-727-1614

#### Maria Van Dusen,

*Riverways Coordinator x 360*

#### Joan C. Kimball,

*Adopt-A-Stream Coordinator x 384*

#### Karen I. Pelto,

*River Restore Coordinator x 359*

#### Russell A. Cohen,

*Rivers Advocate x 358*

#### Cindy DelPapa,

*Stream Ecologist x 359*

#### Patricia Sheppard,

*Grants Administrator x 360*

#### Dave Gabriel,

*Grafix x 378*

### Special Programs

#### Anne Livingston,

*Urban Rivers*

#### Liz Mikulecky,

*Westfield River Outreach*

#### Rachel Calabro,

*Stream Team Technical Assistant*

#### Amy Singler,

*Stream Team Organizer*

#### Kathleen O'Connor,

*Publications Intern*

# Riverways Programs

## Department of Fisheries, Wildlife & Environmental Law Enforcement

100 Cambridge Street, Room 1901

Boston, Massachusetts 02202

(617) 727-1614 x 360, 384, 359, 358



*Members of the EOEa Hoosic (Hudson) Watershed Team embarking on an afternoon field trip to view erosion and other streambank-related issues along the Hoosic River in Williamstown. Other river-related photos and information are available at Riverways Web Page: <[http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/river/riv\\_toc.htm](http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/river/riv_toc.htm)> Photo by Russell Cohen.*

# Reconnecting River Communities

## River Restore Program

In May, Secretary Bob Durand and DFWELE Commissioner David Peters launched the River Restore Program within the Riverways Program to assist the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) and its agencies in improving fish movement and passage through the evaluation and removal of obstacles, particularly dams.

Decommissioning of dams on Massachusetts rivers will provide a visible and tangible achievement of Secretary Durand's biological conservation goal. River stewardship and restoration through the Riverways Program as a partner to communities, groups, and agencies involved in the Watershed Initiative is one of Commissioner Peters' top five agency priorities.

River Restore will build on the dam decommissioning advisory group that met in November 1998 and January 1999 to explore the issues of fish passage and dam safety. This group, led by Rich Thibedeau of the Department of Environmental Management (DEM), included Dave Clark, Bill Salomaa and Mike Gildesgame of DEM, Jerry Mew, Lois Bruinooge and Mike Stroman of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Caleb Slater of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW), and Rick Kleiman, Boston Harbor Team Leader.

River Restore will also oversee the implementation of a feasibility study for dam breaching/fish passage on the Neponset River. This project emerged in 1998 through the leadership of Paul Diodati of the Division of Marine Fisheries, working cooperatively with Karen Pelto and Rick Kleiman and a task force comprised of agency and public members.

Massachusetts can become the first state government to take a systematic approach for the inventory, evaluation, and removal of dams to improve aquatic habitats and protect public safety. Releasing rivers from impoundments will restore river functions of sediment transport and flow, and habitat for species that rely on flowing waters for survival. Improvement in water quality, particularly temperature and dissolved oxygen, are additional benefits.

Meeting a goal of river restoration through dam removal will involve: 1) Conducting a comprehensive inventory of dams and fishery conditions in order to focus program resources; 2) developing biological, physical, and cultural criteria to evaluate removal

candidates; and 3) integrating community and historic preservation with dam removal studies.

As River Restore Coordinator, Karen Pelto will facilitate development of selection and removal criteria among agency staff, assist team leaders in resolving common issues of concern, and provide oversight to select projects, for example, the Neponset River. In addition, she will work with communities and other public partners to raise public awareness and facilitate implementation.

The Neponset River is but one of several fishery restoration projects featuring dam breaching as an option. The Division of Marine Fisheries has been stocking the Neponset with blueback herring and American Shad since 1996, a restoration effort "spawned" by the Watershed Initiative Pilot Project. River Restore is currently reviewing a Project Restoration Plan prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a feasibility study.

## Ghost Fish

*Riverways is pleased to reprint Tom Palmer's article "Ghost Fish" which originally appeared in the Fall 1998 issue of Sanctuary, reprinted here with permission from the Massachusetts Audubon Society.*

If you've ever canoed down the Neponset River, which runs thirty miles from the hills of Foxborough to tidewater at Boston Harbor between Quincy and Dorchester, you know that there's some heavy lifting involved. At two spots inside Rt. 128, at Hyde Park and at Lower Mills, the current quickens as it slides between red-brown cliffs of 19th-century brick, and a muted roar vibrates up ahead, where the river seems to drop off a table.

As it happens, you can carry around both of these dams, if you know where to pull out, and what fence-holes to duck through, and which rotting rail spurs to stumble over. It's a relief to slap your boat back on the water, and step in, and feel the soft, slippery give that means you are afloat.

The last canoe to run this stretch of the river without leaving the channel was probably made out of bark, and had Indians in it, because the Neponset has been dammed here for better than 350 years, beginning in 1634, when its banks were still shut up in woods, and the General Court of the newly-founded Bay Colony awarded Israel Stoughton of Dorchester the right to capture its flow just above present-day Adams St. in order to power a grist mill. The grant like-

wise required Stoughton to build and maintain a footbridge at the spot, where a ford led off toward Plymouth Colony; in return he was given exclusive rights to construct a fish weir in the rapids and sell any alewives he netted at five shillings per thousand.

This was the place "the lowest falls on the river" where Boston's precolonial inhabitants, the Massachusetts, had traditionally gathered in springtime to feast on the returning bounty of smelt, herring, and shad, all en route from salt water to spawning grounds higher upstream. Though decimated by imported diseases, the Massachusetts never deeded away their right to fish here, and they doubtless watched Stoughton's mill go up, and wondered at the strangeness of it. Perhaps they knew, as the General Court apparently didn't, that blocking the river with a dam would insult the Fish Nation, and endanger the runs; at any rate, the first document acknowledging this effect appeared ninety years later, in 1727, when the town of Canton, fifteen miles upstream, inserted an article in its annual warrant "to see what action the town will take in regard to procuring a free passage for fish up the Neponset River."

Thus opened a long and litigious struggle between the upstream towns and millowners in Milton and Dorchester, a struggle that lasted nearly a century, and ended only when the resource in question, the annual manna of fish, vanished completely. Apparently the last good run occurred in 1788, after a storm ripped out several dams. By a decade later a new and higher barricade was in place at Lower Mills, a wall the shad and herring couldn't pass, and they departed for good. Local histories preserve the legend of parties of farmers from high in the watershed who

marched downstream after dark with axes and crowbars to break up this dam, only to be beaten off by gangs of millworkers. By 1810 or so even the lawyers had moved on, and every drop of the river was in harness.

In the meantime a dozen other water-powered concerns joined Stoughton's corn-grinding operation beside the rapids, including the first paper and gunpowder mills in America. There was a snuff mill, a slitting mill, a fulling mill, a sawmill, even a mill for making dyes and drugs. At the time of the Revolution the Neponset's lower falls were probably the most heavily industrialized site in the western hemisphere. But it was Walter Baker's chocolate mill that eventually devoured all the others, converted to steam,

and morphed into the lofty and massive century-old piles that hedge the river today. Baker Chocolate employed over 700 workers in Lower Mills through World War II, and decamped to Delaware in 1973.

Now an exercise studio has opened in one of the mills, and another has been converted to apartments, while several more remain shut up and empty. No engines vibrate their stout walls, and their owners are far-off, murky beings. But the river still gushes and gurgles and eddies through their foundations in a hundred dark places, and a dam still stands at their head, an eight-foot concrete spillover dam about seventy feet long, which thunders mightily at the height of the spring melt, when a thousand cubic feet of water plummet over it every second. This dam, anchored at its Dorchester end on the site of Stoughton's grist mill, was last rebuilt in 1955, after Hurricane Diane badly damaged its predecessor. The highest storm tides reach its base, and a deep lode of riverborne muck has accumulated behind it. Hard to get to in its clot of dead mills, it is nonetheless public property. A narrow catwalk runs across it, where you can lean on the rail and ponder the likeness of eternity in the foam hissing through the boulders below, where a few hardy willows cling like starfish.

But hardly anyone comes here. And why should they? No fish swarm under the dam, no jobs beckon at the mills, and all the razor wire, poison ivy, and broken glass are depressing. This was once an important place it's still important but all the juice has been sucked out of it, and it's been fenced off and left to crumble.

But the river still sweeps through, and its tea-colored water arches like glass over the checkboards. I like the mossy patches of weeds spreading across the ruined basements, and the pigeons that flap out of the gaping sixth-floor windows, and the clammy mist, lightly scented

with sewage, that rises up from the backwash. There are ghosts here, you can tell. Ghosts give a place value. They have knowledge, and don't linger without reason.

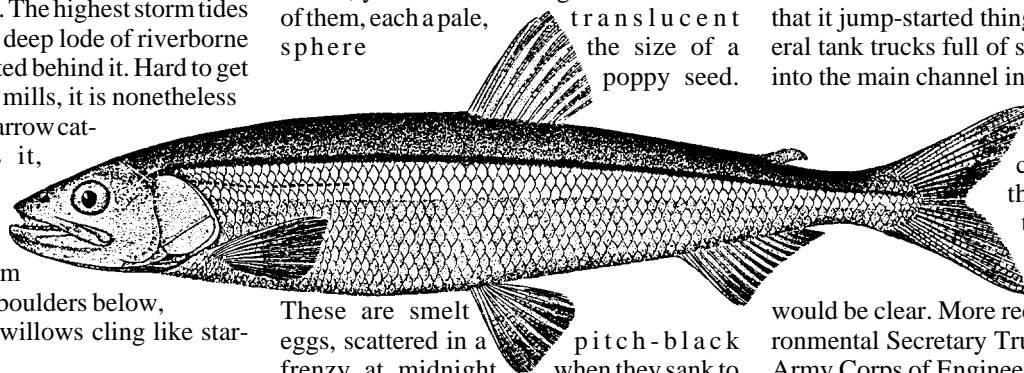
Think, then, of the ghosts of the many millions of migrating fish that once passed through this spot. Fish fat from sieving plankton out of sunny waters off Nantucket Shoals and Cape May; fish loaded with milt and roe, and half-crazed by the scent of narrow waters they were born in. Don't forget the big stripers charging in like linebackers, or the dagger-billed herons, migrants also, standing one-legged on the banks and waiting,

discreet as undertakers, for the next tide. Ghosts of birds, fish, and people; the ghost of farmer-diarist Samuel Pierce, late of Dorchester, who on June 6th, 1769 caught 1500 shad with one haul of his seine across the mouth of a salt creek just around the bend.

Not all the ghosts are deceased. Young eels spawned in black depths off Bermuda come here also, and worm their way up tiny leaks and seeps in the roots of the dam; we know it because they appear in every nearly every pond and puddle above. Years later, full-grown, they'll ease downstream on dark nights in late autumn, bound for sex, death, and the open sea. Do they hesitate where the current begins to tug, spooked by the roar of plunging water?

If you come to the rocks below the dam in mid-April after a big spring tide the night before, you can see more ghosts thousands of them, each a pale, translucent sphere

the size of a poppy seed.



These are smelt eggs, scattered in a pitch-black frenzy at midnight, when they sank to the bottom and stuck. But fish and river have ebbed away, and the eggs look like cornmeal scattered over the dark stones. Those exposed to air are already shrivelling. About 200,000 people get their water from wells above the dam, and most of it heads out to sea in sewers; that's water not available to cover these eggs. Squat down in the wet rocks and look closer; you'll see that each tiny, doomed orb contains two even tinier eye-spots. These are ghosts caught in the making.

But the most fabled spirits of Lower Mills are what you might call optimists; they appear every spring as if the river had never been dammed. I haven't seen them myself, but others have. They are herring and shad born elsewhere, and they come up the estuary for a few weeks each spring and linger in the pools around Adams St. Perhaps they go on to spawn somewhere else the Charles, maybe, where the ladders are broken but fish pour in via the locks, or the North River in Marshfield, with one of the best shad runs in the state.

A few years back the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries formally surveyed the Neponset, mapping likely breeding habitat for herring and shad, and found seventeen

miles along the river's mainstem above the dams. Good habitat is sand-bottomed channel matching certain parameters of depth and velocity, and seventeen miles was a lot more than anyone expected to find, most of it in the floodplain of the Fowl Meadows former glacial lake-bottom, now a vast freshwater marsh, which straddles Rt. 128 in Readville, Milton, Canton, Westwood, Norwood, Sharon, and Walpole.

Hence the surveyors fell prey to a wild surmise: why not have real fish in the Neponset, instead of ghosts? The mills that dammed the river for power are extinct; the few remaining ones, the ones that still draw process water, could likely be accommodated. And furthermore, why fool around with ladders or lifts, which are tricky to maintain and don't always work why not remove the roadblocks entirely?

The Division was so taken with this notion that it jump-started things by dumping several tank trucks full of shad and herring fry into the main channel in Canton. These fish

were an incantation, a sort of magical chum; it was hoped that when they returned from the ocean a few years later, their way

would be clear. More recently former Environmental Secretary Trudy Coxe asked the Army Corps of Engineers to formally study the possibility of removing the two dams, and that work is now proceeding.

It's not as if the river is fish-less. If you go to the marshy basin below Mattapan's Ryan Playground in June you can see mud-colored carp the size of beavers idling in midchannel. Higher up, in some of the little woodland brooks running off Blue Hill, foot-long suckers shimmy together in May over gravel so shallow their fins flop over. And I'm told Neponset bullheads taste great in April.

But these are year-round, stay-at-home, mudhole-type fish. They don't need rivers or oceans. They don't startle and amaze with their silvery hordes. What a thing it would be if this river, which lies at the beginning of our entire dismal history of turning fish into ghosts, were to tumble unimpeded through Boston, and glitter every spring with the flash and dazzle of new life!

I confess I am sold on this prospect. When I have a minute, I want to migrate through time, to the place before we lost our senses. I want to go down to the rapids in May, and wade out in the chilly foam, and see dark-backed fish fly past me like birds.